

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

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R 011002 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9907

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS PINT BG

SUBJ: AWAMI LEAGUE MP MURDERED

1. JUNE 1 PRESS REPORTS THAT A. S. M. NURUL HUQ, MP FRO MADARIPUR SUBDIVISION, FARIDIPUR DISTRICT, WAS MURDERED BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS IN HIS VILLAGE HOME EVENING OF MAY 30. MURDER HAS PROVOKED GENERAL OUTCRY FROM AWAMI LEAGUE LEADERS STARTING WITH PRIME MINISTER AND INCLUDING PRESIDENT, CABINET MINISTERS AND PARTY OFFICIALS. BOTH HOME MINISTER AND FOOD MINISTER (LATTER COMES FROM DISTRICT) ACCOMPANIED BY AWAMI LEAGUE ORGANIZING SECRETARY ABDUR RAZZAK HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO THE SCENE TO INVESTIGATE. THUS FAR NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE NOR HAVE ANY ACCUSATIONS BEEN LEVELED. PRESS IN PAST MONTH HAS REPORTED MURDER OF NUMBER OF LESSER AWAMI LEAGUE WORKERS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF COUNTRY ATTRIBUTING THEM TO ANTI- STATE ELEMENTS. CURRENT VICTIM IS MOST SENIOR AWAMI LEAGUE POLITICIAN TO FALL SINCE MURDER TWO MCAS IN 1972.

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2. MURDER TAKES PLACE AGAINST BACKGROUND OF INCREASING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MALAISE IN COUNTRY. ON POLITICAL SIDE FOLLOWING TRENDS CAN BE DISCERNED. OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES BY JSD AND NAP/ BHASHANI HAVE BEEN GROWING IN PAST MONTH, I. E., SUCCESSFUL HARTAL, BHASHANI HUNGER STRIKE AND SERIES OF WELL- ATTENDED JSD RALLIES DEVOTED TO SEVERE CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT. JSD HAS IN EFFECT THROWN DOWN GAUNTLET PROCLAIMING ITS INTENTION OF EVENTUALLY OVERTHROWING GOVERNMENT. THOUGH DIVISIVE TRENDS IN AL (DACCA 2163) NOW SOMEWHAT MUTED, THEY STILL EXIST. ABDUL MANNAN AND HIS FOLLOWERS IN SRAMIK LEAGUE NO DOUBT READY

AT APPROPRIATE TIME TO ATTACK NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES BY BLAMING LOW OUTPUT UPON INEFFICIENT AND CORRUPT GOVERNMENT- APPOINTED ADMINISTRATORS. IT IS DOUBTFUL OF SHEIKH MONI AND HIS JUBO LEAGUE, WHICH BLAMES ILLS OF COUNTRY ON " PAKISTAN- MINDED" BUREAUCRACY, HAVE BEEN PERMANENTLY SILENCED. MEANWHILE, AWAMI LEAGUE SPOKESMEN ARE AGAIN INCREASINGLY ATTEMPTING PLACE BLAME FOR ILLS OF COUNTRY ON SINO- PAKISTAN AND OCCASIONALLY U. S. CONSPIRACIES.

3. RUMORS ARE RIFE IN DACCA THAT GOVERNMENT PLANNING NEW CRACKDOWN ON DISSIDENTS AND/ OR OPPOSITION ELEMENTS. CRACKDOWN ALLEGEDLY TO TAKE PLACE COINCIDENTALLY OR FOLLOWING MASSIVE AWAMI LEAGUE RALLY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 7 TO COMMEMORATE INTRODUCTION OF AL SIX- POINT DEMAND IN 1966.

4. WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL USE MURDER AS PEG ON WHICH TO HANG SERIOUS REPRESSION CAMPAIGN REMAINS TO BE SEEN. PREVIOUS WARNING AGAINST MISCREANTS AND ANTI- STATE ELEMENTS BY TOP LEADERSHIP HAVE PRODUCED LITTLE FOLLOW UP ACTION. JSD WHILE A GROWING FORCE IS STILL IN OUR VIEW MUCH TOO WEAK POSE SERIOUS THREAT TO GOVERNMENT AS LONG AS PRIME MINISTER REMAINS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT HELM. AT SAME TIME PRIME MINISTER AND SENIOR PARTY LEADERS HAVE APPARENTLY CHECKED AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES OF SRAMIK LEAGUE AND JUBL LEAGUE. NEVERTHELESS, CONTINUING WIDESPREAD DISTRESS AND CRITICISM OVER HIGH PRICES AND SHORTAGES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES COULD PRODUCE NEW STRAINS IN TOP LEVEL AL LEADERSHIP

AND TEMPT BDG UNDERTAKE DRAMATIC ACTION. IN ANY EVENT
LIKELY THAT POLITICAL SCENE IN BANGLADESH WILL BECOME
INCREASINGLY ACTIVE AND PROBABLY TENSE IN WEEKS
AHEAD.
NEWBERRY

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